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DUPLICITY OF THE PRINCIPAL COMPONENT OF β 986.

In measuring β 986 with the 36-inch telescope in September of the present year, I noticed that the brighter star is a very close double. I secured measures of it, and of the β pair on three nights, as follows :—

<i>A</i> and <i>B</i> (new) 9.0 — 9.0				
1901.742	129°.2	0".15	1900	3 +
.770	125 .5	0 .16	1500	3
.781	131 .5	0 .17	1500	3
1901.76	128°.7	0".16		

<i>A B</i> and <i>C</i> = β 986. 8.5 — 12.3				
1901.742	238°.4	4".11	520	3 +
.770	241 .5	4 .40	1000	3
.781	239 .3	4 .42	520	3
1901.76	239°.7	4".31		

There are but two other sets of measures of the β pair, one by BURNHAM, with the 18½-inch telescope of the Dearborn Observatory, and the other by WILSON, with the 15-inch telescope of the Carleton College Observatory. The new pair, at the present distance, would be exceedingly difficult to see with either of these instruments.

R. G. AITKEN.

November 14, 1901.

"THE STARS: A STUDY OF THE UNIVERSE." *

Professor SIMON NEWCOMB has just published a volume of extraordinary interest, both to the professional astronomer and to the general reader, under the 'above title. Some portions of the book have been published in the *Popular Science Monthly* for 1900 and 1901, but the gaps in the magazine series have been filled in to make a complete treatise.

It is plain that no greater subject exists than that of the stars, their history, and their present distribution throughout space, and it is a most fortunate circumstance that the greatest living astronomer has undertaken to treat this subject.

It is planned that a review of the book shall appear in the next number of these *Publications*. W. W. CAMPBELL.

*Octavo, 333 + x pp. New York: G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS. London: JOHN MURRAY.